

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 SAM-01 EB-07 AGR-05

INT-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 COME-00 /108 W
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R 231255Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1279

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L NIAMEY 2895

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, SS, MR, SP, AG, MO, NG

SUBJ: NIGER AND SPANISH SAHARA

REF: A. LOME 1541 B. NOUAKCHOTT 1413 C. NIAMEY 2757

1. NIGER HAS RECENTLY RECEIVED FULL TREATMENT ON SPANISH SAHARA ISSUE FROM CONTENDING PARTIES WITH VISITS AND DEMARCHES FROM ALGERIA, JOINT MOROCCAN-MAURITANIAN TEAM AND SPAIN. GON HAS LISTENED BUT HAS NOT AS YET COMMITTED ITSELF.

2. RESIDENT ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR NEKLI WAS FIRST TO GET HIS LICKS IN, WITH CALL ON PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE
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JULY 9 JUST AHEAD OF MOROCCAN-

MAURITANIAN TEAM. AFTER SESSION, NEKLI TOLD PRESS ALGERIA HAD NO TERRITORIAL AMBITIONS AND COVETS NEITHER AREA' SPHOSPHATES NOR CORRIDOR TO SEA; IT MERELY WANTS PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION, ENDORSED IN VARIOUS OAU AND UN RESOLUTIONS SINCE 1966, TO BE OBSERVED. FURTHER, AS NEIGHBOR, ALGERIA NATURALLY INTERESTED IN SOLUTION TO PROBLEM WHICH WILL INSURE PEACE AND STABILITY IN AREA AND CREATE ZONE OF PEACE.

3. ACCORDING TO PRESS STATEMENT BY JOINT MOROCCAN-MAURITANIAN TEAM FOLLOWING ITS MEETING WITH KOUNTCHE SAME DAY DELEGATION'S PITCH FOLLOWED ALONG SAME LINES AS REPORTED IN REF A AND B.

4. SPANISH AMBASSADOR COLOMER WHO RESIDENT IN ABIDJAN COMPLETED FINAL ROUND OF PRESENTATIONS WITH CALL ON KOUNTCHE JULY 15. IN HIS STATEMENT TO PRESS AFTER AUDIENCE HE SAID SPAIN'S POLICY TOWARDS SPANISH SAHARA WAS ONE OF DECOLONIZATION AND TURNING TERRITORY OVER TO ITS INHABITANTS. THIS PROCESS HAD BEEN INTERRUPTED BY REFERRAL OF ISSUE TO ICS AND MORE RECENTLY BY OUTBREAKS OF VIOLENCE IN AREA. SPAIN NOW AWAITS REPORT OF RECENT UN MISSION TO TERRITORY AND WILL CONTINUE TO SEEK SOLUTION WITH FRAMEWORK OF OAU AND UN RESOLUTIONS.

5. COMMENT: GON FINDS ALL THIS ATTENTION AWKWARD AND EMBARRASSING AS IT DOES NOT RELISH HAVING TO CHOOSE AMONG AFRICAN NEIGHBORS AND FRANCOPHONE FRIENDS. FOR TIME BEING WE ANTICIPATE IT WILL STICK TO LINE ANNOUNCED BY FONMIN DJERMAKOEY (REF C) BEFORE LEAVING FOR ISLAMIC CONFERENCE TO EFFECT ALL RETURNS NOT YET IN AND NIGER STILL STUDYING MATTER. FRENCH AMBASSADOR GASCHIGNARD REPORTS PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE TOLD HIM RECENTLY HE HAD PROBLEM WITH MOROCCAN-MAURITANIAN CASE BECAUSE IT APPEARED TO BE BASED IN PART ON ALLEGED TIES OF SPANISH SAHARA INHABITANTS WITH MAURITANIAN AND

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MOROCCAN NEIGHBORS. KOUNTCHE SAID HE FOUND THIS CONCEPT WORRISOME BECAUSE IT WAS TYPE OF CLAIM WHICH MALI HAD ADVANCED AGAINST UPPER VOLTA. IN ANOTHER MOOD OF AGGRANDISEMENT, MALI COULD LEVY SAME CLAIM ON NIGER, THERE BEING NUMBER NOMADS AND OTHERS ON NIGER SIDE OF NORTHERN BORDER WITH MALIAN TIES WHICH LATTER COULD USE TO CLAIM THESE TERRITORIES.HECK

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